

Message Text

SECRET

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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

S E C R E T STATE 214613

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH GDR FOREIGN
MINISTER AT HELSINKI

REF: BERLIN 6332

1. DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AT HELSINKI, FISCHER SAID THAT THE PRESENT TEMPO IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-GDR RELATIONS IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE STRENGTH OF OUR AMBASSADORS AND THEIR EMBASSIES. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE AMBASSADORS OF BOTH COUNTRIES BE CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF FINDING AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WHERE PROGRESS COULD BE MADE. REFERRING FAVORABLY TO PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH, FISCHER SAID THAT THE CALM AND RESTRAINT IN THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN CONSIDERING WHICH DIRECTION TO MOVE IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. FISCHER SAID THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF AREAS WHERE MOVEMENT IS POSSIBLE AND SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND HIS DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR COOPER ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES. FISCHER ADDED
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HIS BELIEF THAT THE CSCE DECLARATIONS SHOULD ALSO "BE

FILLED WITH LIFE."

2. ON BERLIN, FISCHER REQUESTED THAT THE US USE ITS INFLUENCE IN PREVENTING TENSIONS WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CAUSED BY "SOME PEOPLE" AND ARE STRAINING THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT. HE SAID THE GDR WAS "HAPPY WITH MATTERS AS THEY ARE."

3. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT BERLIN IS A PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE US AND THAT WE WISH TO SEE TO IT THAT THE SITUATION THERE REMAINS CALM. WE ALSO WOULD HOPE THAT THE GDR WOULD AVOID STRIDENT CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE US IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.

4. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT BOTH COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THEIR RESPECTIVE POLICIES MUST BE CONDUCTED. WITHIN THESE LIMITS, THE US HAS NO CLASHING INTERESTS WITH THE GDR AND IS PREPARED TO LISTEN TO GDR PROPOSALS. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT WE TOO ARE INTERESTED IN A CONSULAR CONVENTION, ALTHOUGH THE NATIONALITIES QUESTION REMAINS TO BE RESOLVED. AS AN INDICATION OF US INTEREST IN DEVELOPING TIES WITH THE GDR, THE SECRETARY REFERRED TO THE DOWNEY VISIT AND ADDED THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE STATE SECRETARY BEIL.

5. DEPARTMENT WILL SEND EMBASSY COPY OF GUIDELINES PAPER ON US-GDR RELATIONS (PARA 3 REFTel) AS SOON AS IT IS IN FINAL FORM. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH THE GUIDELINES PAPER ITSELF WILL NOT BE CLEARED WITH THE EMBASSY IN DRAFT, THE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS WILL BE WELCOME AT ANY TIME, AND WILL OF COURSE RECEIVE FULL CONSIDERATION. THIS PROCEDURE IS BEING FOLLOWED WITH ALL OTHER EMBASSIES. KISSINGER

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